

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 DLOS-04 FEA-01 ACDA-05

AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /129 W

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R 041518Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2659

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOALSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1721

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJ: MFA OFFICIAL'S STATEMENTS ON CURRENT AEGEAN ISSUES

REF: A. ANKARA 1490(NOTAL) DTG 251109Z FEB 76,

B. ANKARA 1454 (NOTAL) DTG 241410Z FEB 76,

C. ANKARA 1645 (NOTAL) DTG 021355Z MAR 76

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1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED CURRENT AEGEAN ISSUES WITH MFA

AEGEAN/LOS SECTION CHIEF TURMEN MARCH 4. SOME OF THE POINTS OF INTEREST THAT TURMEN MADE WERE:

(A) THE GOT HAS "NO PRESENT INTENTION" OF CONDUCTING SEISMIC RESEARCH OR CORE DRILLING NEAR THASSOS (REF. A). TURMEN STATED THAT MINENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES KILIC MADE THE STATEMENT ABOUT THASSOS ERRONEOUSLY IN AN IMPROMPTU ANSWER TO AN OPPOSITION QUESTION DURING THE RECENT BUDGET DEBATES.

(B) TURMEN DOES NOT EXPECT THE GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISCUSSIONS TO RESUME UNTIL AFTER THE MAY LOS CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK. HE SAID THAT NO CONTACTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR THE NEXT MEETING SINCE THE FEBRUARY TALKS IN BERN. HE STATED THAT MEANWHILE THE MFA WILL BE BUSY PREPARING FOR THE NEW YORK CONFERENCE AND ASSUMES THE GREEKS WILL BE EQUALLY OCCUPIED.

(C) AMBASSADOR (TO LEBANON) NECMETTIN TUNCEL WILL BE THE CHIEF OF THE TURKISH DELEGATION TO THE NEW YORK LOS CONFERENCE (REPLACING NAMIK YOLGA, WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW).

(D) THE CRITICISMS OF THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT'S AEGEAN POLICY BY REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CAHIRMAN ECEVIT (REFS. B AND C) ARE SUCCEEDING IN PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT TO DEMONSTRATE ITS WILLINGNESS TO DEFEND TURKISH INTERESTS IN THE AEGEAN. AS AN EXAMPLE, TURMEN CITED KILIC'S DISCLOSURE OF THE OUTFITTING OF THE HORA FOR SEISMIC RESEARCH. IN TURMEN'S OPINION, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO DISCLOSURE OF THE WORK ON THE VESSEL HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE ECEVIT CRITICISMS.

(E) TURMEN SAID THAT THE HORA WAS A GENUINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH VESSEL, IN CONTRAST TO THE CANDARLI WHICH DID NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY FOR SEISMIC RESEARCH AND WHICH HAD BEEN USED SOLELY TO MAKE A "POLITICAL POINT" IN SPRING, 1974.

(F) TURKISH AIR AND NAVAL EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN WOULD CONTINUE AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS "PROVOCATIONS" BY
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THE GOG. THE GOT HAD PROPOSED DURING THE FIR TALKS THAT EACH NATION PREPARE IN ADVANCE A YEARLY SCHEDULE OF AEGEAN EXERCISES AND SUBMIT IT TO THE OTHER, BUT THE GOG HAD REJECTED THE PROPOSAL. THE GOT STILL FAVORED THIS EXCHANGE, BUT MEANWHILE WOULD CONTINUE WITH ITS SCHEDULED NATIONAL EXERCISES.
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